

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-11 EUR-12 ACDA-10 (ISO) W

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R 091215Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7478

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS GABORONE 0032

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, BC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT S DEPARTURE FOR THE OAU SUMMIT

REF: GABORONE 0026

1. PRESIDENT KHAMA DEPARTED GABORONE AT 0630 JANUARY 9 TO
CONNECT WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA FOR ONWARD TRAVEL TO OAU SUMMIT
MEETING AT ADDIS. JANUARY 9 ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT-PUBLISHED
BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS CARRIES THE STORY OF HIS DEPARTURE INCLUDED
IN SIGNED COMMENTARY BY DAILY NEWS STAFF REPORTER ERNEST CHILISA.

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS:

2. BEGIN EXCERPTS. THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN ANGOLA ARE
LOCKED IN A BITTER STRUGGLE FOR POWER IN ANGOLA AS A RESULT
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THOUSANDS OF HUMAN LIVES WERE DESTROYED IN THE FIERCE FIGHTING

GOING ON IN THE FORMER PORTUGUESE TERRITORY. UNITA/FNLA ARE SUPPORTED BY WESTERN POWERS SUCH AS UNITED STATES, FRANCE AND SOUTH AFRICA WHILE THE MPLA ENJOYS THE BACKING OF THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS.

3, UP UNTIL NOW OVER 20 AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE RECOGNIZED THE LUANDA-BASED MPLA GOVERNMENT WHILE THE OTHER RIVAL GOVERNMENT SET BY UNITA/FNLA IN NOVA LISBOA HAS NOT BEEN RECOGNIZED BY ANY GOVERNMENT.

4. BOTSWANA IS AMONG OAU MEMBER-STATES WHICH CALLED FOR A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY COMPRISING OF ALL THE THREE MOVEMENTS IN ANGOLA. IT ALSO CONDEMNED FOREIGN INTERVENTION OF FORCES SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA, CUBA AND RUSSIA WHO ARE REPORTED TO BE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE WAR.

5. POLITICAL ANALYSTS ACCORDING TO REUTER BELIEVE THE INVOLVEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA IN ANGOLA UNDER THE SHADOW OF PRESERVING ITS INTERESTS IN THE TERRITORY AND THE RECENT CAPTURE OF ITS SOLDIERS DEEP IN ANGOLA IS LIKELY TO SWING MORE SUPPORT TO THE MPLA.

6. PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA IS EXPECTED TO STOP IN LUSAKA, WHERE HE WILL BE JOINED BY PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA. ZAMBIA LIKE BOTSWANA ADVOCATES A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM THE ANGOLAN SOIL.

THE SUMMIT IS EXPECTED TO END ON MONDAY, JANUARY 12.

END EXCERPTS.
THOMSEN

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